

Braintree Historical Commission  
Minutes  
October 7, 2013  
Town Hall – Johnson Chambers

Present: Elizabeth Mees (Chair) Kate Nedelman-Herbst  
Paul Carr Al Varraso  
Ron Frazier

Also Present: Christine Stickney, Director of Planning and Community Development

**New Business:** *Elm Street Cemetery – supplemental funding and security issues:*

Christine informed the members the CPA approved the emergency funds for \$7,000 a little bit more than asked for by the Commission and it has already been sent to the Town Council for action on 11/6/13. Christine also let Ron Frazier and other members know the Mayor is agreeable to some type of press event – Ron just needs to contact his office to coordinate. Ron mentioned that the Braintree Historical Society is supposed to be doing a walk out there soon and cautioned that whoever is doing the walk needs to know there are some sink holes to stay away from particularly with elders.

Paul Carr asked if anything is being done about the “tracings” suggested by Mr. Drollett at the last meeting. Ron Frazier informed members that there may be photos of the different stones taken years ago at the Historical Society.

Christine provided members with pictures sent to her today from Frank Drollett taken over the weekend that shows they mowed the cemetery blowing all the debris against the recently restored stones – no seeding has been done around the headstones so with the hard rain the splash up covered all the recent work. Mr. Drollett feels more care is needed in this cemetery and wanted to bring these issues to the BHC attention. Kate Nedelman Herbst provided members with a draft letter she prepared based on last month’s discussion – all agreed on the content of the letter and asked Christine to put on letterhead. Paul Carr **MOTION** to accept the letter and send it to the Mayor and relative department heads, seconded by Ron Frazier – unanimously voted.

Christine shared the email from Jim Smith at BELD as to the camera issue and it seems BELD is no longer doing Wi-Fi cameras but suggested that the BHC contact the Verizon. Members discussed cameras or lights – is there a possibility for motion detected lights be installed that may deter intruders into the cemetery. Paul Carr suggested someone needs to go down and check out what is there. Elizabeth Mees noted other cemeteries have ended up with going to locked gates – members questioned who would be responsible for opening and closing the gates. After a bit of discussion it was decided to look into only motion lights at this time at the lower end of the cemetery.

Ron Frazier commented he would like to get bids on priority one stones but is unable to query the file to separate them by priority. Christine commented she has been unable to do it may need to be done manually and she does not have the time or personnel to do it. Elizabeth and Kate suggested the file be sent to them and they will try to it.

**Old Business:**

*Historic Inventory Project – Kathleen Broomer* - Christine provided members with a handout that provided a narrative of what has been done to date by Ms. Broomer and the list of properties 50 + years old as shown on the original work scope map. To date, she has completed Tasks 1, 2 and 4 per the scope of work with the list provided tonight. She raised two questions regarding the Elm Street Cemetery and the MBTA right of way at the Greenbush and Red line junction. The BHC provided direction on how these two properties should be handled. Ron Frazier commented that many of the previous Form B's were not accurate or provided enough detailed and should be addressed. Members suggested asking Ms. Broomer if that is a task she could undertake and provide an estimate if we can find funding.

*Gallivan House – Historic Restriction and Local Historic District* – Christine updated the BHC on the recent happenings with the Gallivan House and MHC not accepting the historic preservation restriction due to the bank not subordinating their mortgage to the restriction. Christine said she, Matt Mees and the Mayor met last week to try and seek another solution to have some type of legal instrument recorded against the title – Matt was to talk with his members to see if there could be some legal assistance with this effort. The CPC is meeting with Matt on October 21<sup>st</sup> to try and resolve the issue.

As to the Local Historic District, Christine finally obtained from the Town Clerk the transition team adopted version of the original historical commission bylaw. She provided handouts showing the difference between the two versions and said she would be discussing it again with the Planning Board on 10/8/13 so hopefully it would go to the Town Council for approval. Members discussed past issues with getting the Gallivan house into the district before. Ron Frazier asked that the new language be inserted into the transition version so members can see it.

*Town Hall RFQ/RFP progress* – Christine reported nine firms submitted and four have been interviewed as of last week – there is working meeting this week and hopefully the Mayor will have recommendations and can begin negotiation on the fee soon. Christine also report that the Old Thayer Library is merely waiting for MHC approval and then that will be ready for bidding. The windows can be taken out over the winter – ply wooded up and the windows taken to a shop for restoration.

Ron Frazier pointed out some typos in the minutes and then **MOTION** to approve the September minutes as amended, seconded by Al Varraso – unanimously voted.

Kate Nedelman Herbst **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting seconded by Paul Carr, unanimously voted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55PM

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Stickney, Director  
Planning and Community Development